UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,351	11/20/2001	Fumiaki Itoh	B422-174	3353

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EXAMINER
MARTIN, CIARA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2157	

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/991,351	ITOH, FUMIAKI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ciara Martin	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>20 November 2001</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-41</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-41</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to the application filed on November 20, 2001. Claims

1-41 are pending. Claims 1-41 represent a paper-based web browsing apparatus and

method.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a
foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year
prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   Claims 1–12, 18-30, and 36-41 and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by Cragun et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,804,803.

Cragun teaches the invention as claimed including a mechanism for scanning

information from a code containing an encoded URL and accessing the Internet using

the URL (see abstract).

4.   As per claims 1, 18, 19, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41 Cragun teaches a web

browser apparatus and program comprising:

a.   image storing means for storing an inputted image (see column 4 lines 29-

44; Cragun discloses an input buffer to store a code, a code is an image);

b.   action identification code analyzing means for extracting an action

identification code for deciding the next action from the input image stored in said

image storing means and analyzing the action identification code (see column 2

lines 10-15 and column 5 lines 53-62; Cragun discloses converting and

processing scanned code in input buffer in to a URL, converting and processing

involves extracting and analyzing, the reference also discloses "... a scanner

capable of scanning objects for a code ..."; this passage clearly implies the step

of "extracting");

c.   action deciding means for deciding the next action based on an analysis

result of the action identification code by said action identification code analyzing

means and said input image (see column 5 line 53 to column 7 line 14; Cragun

discloses processing the scanned code, processing involves deciding a next

action);

d.   obtaining means for obtaining page data from a web server in accordance

with the action decided by said action deciding means (see column 8 lines 46-

62; Cragun discloses a client computer receiving requested document from a

processed URL, a processed URL is sent from a web server, receiving involves

obtaining, processing involves deciding a next action, a document received from

a web server is a page);

e.   action identification code preparing means for, if a user instructs by filling

in a physical medium on which the obtained page data is printed, preparing an

action identification code to be used for deciding an action corresponding to the

instruction based on the obtained page data (see column 4 lines 19-30 and

column 8 line 46 to column 9 line 16; Cragun discloses user interaction with

obtained page and fill-in form and creating additional encoded URLs in data-filled

form to process continuously, the output of the obtained page data is in printed

form, user interaction with a printed page involves user filling-in a printed page

data, creating additional encoded URLs involves preparing an action

identification code, encoded URLs are identification codes);

f.   output image preparing means for preparing an output image based on

the prepared action identification code and the obtained page data (see column 8

line 46 to column 9 line 16; Cragun discloses creating additional encoded URLs

from obtained page and data-filled form); and

g.   print controlling means for controlling such that the prepared output image

is printed on a physical medium (see column 4 lines 19- 29; Cragun discloses the

output device of the code is a printer, the code is an image and the printer prints

on a physical medium).

5.   As per claims 2 and 20, Cragun teaches:

a.   a scanner for reading a physical medium to prepare an input image and

inputting the input image in said image storing means (see column 4 lines 8-18

and lines 30-44; Cragun discloses a scanning device to read the code and a

barcode input buffer to store the code); and

b.   a printer for printing to output an output image controlled by said print

controlling means to a physical medium (see column 4 lines 19-30; Cragun

discloses a printer as an output device for printing an image received).

6.   As per claims 3 and 21, Cragun teaches action identification code includes data

for identifying each action that can be taken and data for identifying filling-in for

selecting said action (see column 5 line 53 to column 6 line 3 and column 8 line 63 to

column 9 line 16; Cragun discloses processing a filled-in encoded form of the data code

and processing the encoded created URL of filled-in document, processing a filled-in

form includes identifying actions that can be taken, and processing an encoded created

URL involves identifying filled-in areas).

7.   As per claims 4 and 22, Cragun teaches action identification code includes data

for obtaining data for identifying each action that can be taken (see column 5 line 52 to

column 6 line 3; Cragun discloses processing data from the code in a data-filled form,

processing codes from a data-filled form involves obtaining data for identifying next

actions).

8.   As per claims 5 and 23, Cragus teaches action identification code includes at

least one of a URL record of page data to be outputted, a base record indicating

contents of a base tag, an anchor record indicating contents of an anchor tag, a form

record indicating contents of a form tag, a submit record indicating submission of a form

element, a reset record indicating reset of a form element, a radio button record of a

form element and a check box record of a form element (see column 8 line 46 to column

9 line 16; Cragun discloses a page document outputed as a request via a URL; base,

anchor and form tags and form elements can be a part of an web page).

9. As per claims 6 and 24 Cragun teaches output image preparing means prepares an

output image by adding a position marker for specifying a position of said output image

as well (see column 4 lines 19-30, column 8 lines 46-62; Cragun discloses a printer as

an output device for the page document being returned, a printer predetermines the

position on a page of an output image, it is inherent a position marker is used in
predetermining a position).

10.   As per claims 7 and 25 Cragun teaches output image preparing means prepares
an output image by laying said obtained page data and said prepared action
identification code one on top of the other in the form in which said action identification
code can be extracted (see column 8 line 46 to column 9 line 16; Cragun discloses
output of page data as a document with an encoded code on top of the page data, the
encoded code can be processed afterwards, processing a code involves extracting a
code).

11.   As per claims 8 and 26 Cragun teaches one or a plurality of said action
identification codes are included on said output image (see column 8 line 62 to column
9 line 10; Cragun discloses a plurality of ULR-encoded codes on the outputted page
document).

12.   As per claims 9 and 27 Cragun teaches action identification code is outputted to
said output image in a predetermined color (see column 4 lines 18-25 and column 8
lines 46-62; Cragun discloses the output mechanism as a printer and the output image
highlighted, it is obvious the highlighted output is in a predetermined color).

13.   As per claims 10 and 28 Cragun teaches action deciding means decides said
next action based on whether a control area having a predetermined color is filled in
(see column 8 line 62 to column 9 line 16; Cragun discloses user interaction with
highlighted outputted document with a fill-in form and processing of the document, the

fill-in form is the highlighted (colored) control area, the document is processed

according to the colored areas).

14.   As per claims 11 and 29 Cragun teaches action identification code is arranged

and printed in a predetermined position with respect to a control area for determining

whether a user has filled in (see column 4 lines 19-30 and column 8 lines 46-62; Cragun

discloses a printer as an output device and an outputted URL-encoded code and fill-in

form on a document page, the fill-in form the control area and is used by the user, the

code is printed with respect to the control area).

15.   As per claims 12 and 30 Cragun teaches output image preparing means has a

control area that is selected and designated in advance with respect to a control area in

which a user fills in and the selected and designated control area is prepared as an

image that can be distinguished from filling-in by the user (see column 4 lines 19-30 and

column 8 lines 46-62; Cragun discloses a printer as an output device and an outputted

URL-encoded code and fill-in form on a document page, the fill-in form is a control area,

the encoded code is another control area, both control areas are distinguished from

each other on the printed output).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

17.   Claims 13,14, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Cragun et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,804,803 in view of Reber et al., U.S.

Patent No. 5,940,595.

18.   As per claims 13 and 31 Cragun teaches an action identification code (see

column 5 line 53 to column 6 line 3; Cragun discloses a code encoded with data).

Cragun fails to teach a logo. However, Reber teaches a logo (see paragraph 13; Reber

discloses a logo that can be combined with the identification code.

        It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Cragon in view of Reber to add a logo to the identification code

because the code is not human-readable, but the logo is and so the user could more

easily identify the source of the code.

19.   As per claims 14 and 32 Cragun teaches action identification code (see column 5

line 53 to column 6 line 3; Cragun discloses a code encoded with data). Cragun fails to

teach the code is a two-dimensional bar code. However, Reber teaches a two-

dimensional bar code.

        It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Cragun in view of Reber to make the bar code a two-dimensional

barcode because the bar code would have still been machine readable but more

information could have been encoded in it using less space.

20.   Claims 15, 16, 17, 33, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Cragun U.S. Patent No. 5,804,803 in view of Schneck et al U.S.

Patent No. 5,933,498.

21.   As per claims 15 and 33 Cragun teaches action identification code preparing

means prepares an action identification code including action identification data that is

used for deciding, if a user instructs by filling in a physical medium on which the

obtained page data is printed, an action corresponding to the instruction for processing

of a physical medium on which the obtained page data is printed (see column 4 lines

19-30, column 8 line 46 to column 9 line 16; Cragun discloses a printer as an output

device and an outputted URL-encoded code and fill-in form on a document page to

process).

        Cragun fails to teach permission for processing. However, Schneck teaches

permission for processing (see column 20 lines 26-34; Schneck discloses rules

enforced on input and output (I/O) processing, it is obvious rules are permissions).

        It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Cragun in

view of Schneck to add rules to the input/output process because this would prevent the

processing of the output by unauthorized parties using unauthorized hardware.

22.   As per claims 16 and 34 Cragun teaches action identification code analyzing

means (see column 5 lines 53 to column 6 line 3; Cragun discloses converting and

processing scanned code in the input buffer in to a URL, converting and processing

involves extracting and analyzing).

Cragun fails to teach stopping processing if permission data is not matched.

However, Schneck teaches stopping processing if permission data is not matched (see

column 20 lines 26-34; Schneck discloses restriction rules enforced on input and output

(I/O) processing, it is obvious rules are permissions, and restrictions involve stopping

processing if the rules are not met).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Cragun in view of Schneck to add rules restrictions to the

input/output process because this would prevent the processing of the output by

unauthorized parties using unauthorized hardware.

23.   As per claims 17 and 35 Cragun teaches action identification code preparing

means (see column 8 line 46 to column 9 line 16; Cragun discloses a prepared URL-

encoded code on a document page).

Cragun fails to teach performing charging processing according to a permission

target apparatus of said permission data. However, Schneck teaches performing

charging processing according to a permission target apparatus of said permission data

(see column 10 lines 27-33; Schneck discloses data access controlled by payment,

payment involves charging and data is access using a permission apparatus).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Cargun in view of Schneck to add data access controlled by

payment because unauthorized parties using unauthorized hardware could not process

data fraudulently.

Conclusion

24.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure. Durst Jr. et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,542,933 B1; Wilz Sr. et al, U.S

Patent No. 6,510,997 B1; Browning U.S. Patent No. 6,707,581 B1; Knowles U.S Patent

No. 6,345,764 B1; Russell et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,568,595 B1; Russell et al. U.S.

Patent No. 6,412,699 B1; Durst et al. U.S Patent No. 6,108,656; Wilz Sr et al. U.S.

Patent No. 6,076,733; and Ikeda U.S. Patent No. 5,938,727.

25.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ciara Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-7507.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30- 4:00 with second Fridays off.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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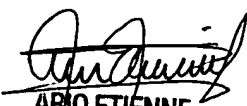
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